

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:  
storing a policy decision for a resource in local memory, said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said remote source;  
receiving a first request for access to said resource, said first request comprising said requestor identifying information; and  
evaluating said first request using said policy decision in said local memory instead of referring said first request to said source for evaluation;  
receiving a notification from said remote source that said policy decision in said local memory is affected by a change in said policy definition;  
receiving a second request for access to said resource; and  
evaluating said second request based on said notification.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said resource is affiliated with another resource, and wherein further a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13 wherein said notification identifies resources affected by said change.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31, wherein  
receiving said notification further comprises storing an updated version of said policy decision in said local memory, wherein said notification also comprises an said updated version of said policy decision, and wherein said updated version of said policy decision is based on said change; and

evaluating said second request further comprises using said updated version of said policy decision in said local memory.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13 ~~further comprising:~~, wherein receiving said notification further comprises marking said policy decision subject to said change; and evaluating said second request further comprises requesting an updated version of said policy decision in response to a subsequent request for said resource.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
sending a message to said remote source, said message requesting updates for policy decisions stored in said local memory.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein a period of time said policy decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein a condition associated with said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally, wherein said condition is enforced locally.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:  
receiving a first request for access to a resource, said first request comprising requestor identifying information, wherein said first request is referred to a remote source of a policy definition that governs access to said resource for evaluation;  
receiving from said remote source a policy decision for said resource, said policy decision based on said policy definition and said requestor identifying information; and  
storing said policy decision in local memory, wherein a subsequent second request for access to said resource is evaluated locally using said policy decision stored in said local memory; and  
receiving a notification from said remote source that said policy decision is affected by a change in said policy definition, wherein a third request for access to said resource is evaluated based on said notification.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 wherein said resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~1210~~ wherein said notification identifies resources affected by said change.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~1210~~, wherein  
receiving said notification further comprises storing an updated version of said policy decision in said local memory, wherein said third request is evaluated using said updated version of said policy decision, wherein said notification also comprises an said updated version of said policy decision and wherein said updated version of said policy decision is based on said change.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~1210~~ further comprising:, wherein receiving said notification further comprises marking said policy decision subject to said change, wherein ; and requesting an updated version of said policy decision is requested from said remote source in response to a subsequent said third request for said resource.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:  
sending a message to said remote source, said message requesting updates to policy decisions stored in said local memory.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:  
receiving information that identifies a period of time said policy decision is valid.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:  
receiving from said remote source a condition associated with said policy definition, wherein said condition is enforced locally.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:

storing in local memory a policy decision for a first resource, said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said first resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said source;

receiving a first request for access to said first resource, said request comprising said requestor identifying information; and

evaluating said first request using said policy decision stored in said local memory instead of referring said request to said source for evaluation;

receiving a notification from said remote source that said policy decision in said local memory is affected by a change in said policy definition;

receiving a second request for access to said first resource; and

evaluating said second request based on said notification.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said first resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

sending a message to said remote source, said message requesting updates for policy decisions stored in said local memory.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19 wherein a period of time said policy decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19 wherein a condition associated with said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally, wherein said condition is enforced locally.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

receiving a first request for access to a second resource, said first request comprising said requestor identifying information;

providing said requestor identifying information to a said remote source of a policy definition that governs access to said second resource;

receiving from said remote source a policy decision for said second resource, said policy decision for said second resource based on a said policy definition that governs access to said second resource and said requestor identifying information; and

storing said policy decision for said second resource in said local memory, wherein a subsequent second request for said second resource is evaluated using said policy decision stored in said local memory.